

Capitol Clarion

California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association

OCTOBER 2014

President's Message By Alex King

Where Have All the Flowers Gone...?

If I said that a very popular folk music group made that line famous "a few years ago," many of you would laugh at me. It was more than a few years...but the song line came to mind when I began to write this message. Where have all the months, the weeks, the events, the tours, the challenges and the laughter times gone this year? The laughs and the challenges are still here, and will continue, but by the time this *Clarion* arrives it will be close to mid-October, then November Elections and Christmas and 2015. Where **have** all the months gone?

In a few days, Saturday October 18th, we will be presenting our **Living History** version of the **1906 Election Day**. Many of us will be participating; some will be performing and others will be supporting. Do something different this year – if you are not one of the "involveds", then be a CSCMVA Member and come down to the Capitol to support your friends and colleagues who **are** involved. Bring a friend, or a neighbor, and show them the beautiful Capitol, in which you volunteer, to share with the World.

A schedule change: From mid-October to early December, the Building will be undergoing chaotic transitions. Legislators leaving; new leadership announcements; expected new members arriving, all combine to make Koren Benoit's schedule, and the building staff, unbelievably busy. We must cancel the October 30 tour for which Koren was scheduled. The good news, though, is that she is committed to a leadership room tour early in the New Year, as the new Legislature settles into a new routine. **That being said, though, I would encourage each of you to spend a bit more time in the Building during those days just to see the activity. It is a great experience to share with visitors that confirms the smooth and safe transitions we experience in a democratic society.**

There are many opportunities to assist and serve CSCMVA activities throughout the year. Step Up! If you want to be more involved, let us know. But when someone **does** step up, and takes on the responsibility to Chair, or manage, or direct one of



The **Capitol Clarion** is published monthly by the California State Capitol Museum Volunteer Association.

Marti Dennis, Managing Editor

Bill Geach, Editor Eternal

Deadline for announcements and articles is the **1st of the month.**

Articles can be e-mailed to the Editor at: **mdennis1@att.net**

Capitol Clarion CSCMVA Newsletter
PO Box 19956
Sacramento, CA 95819

our events, or activities, then we – as their colleagues – need to respect their commitment and support them in their efforts. There is always room for discussion, even debate (remember what Building we are in?), and then let them do what they volunteered to do.

NEW Opportunity: We have been given the opportunity to staff the North Entrance Door Information Booth. See a full article later in this issue of the *Clarion*.

Let's have fun, these last few months of 2014!

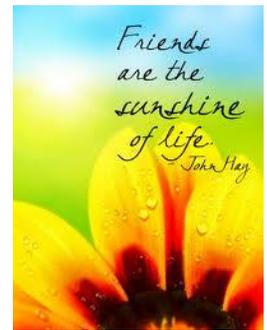
~ **Alex**

Sunshine Corner:

Since the last issue of the *Clarion*, a "Thinking of You" card was sent to

Richard and Suzanne Latimer as a reminder that we have been thinking about them and continue in our thoughts and prayers.

Please remember that If you know of someone who could use a word of encouragement, comfort, or get well wishes, please contact **Scotty Hodges** who thoughtfully expresses CSCMVA support on behalf of our membership. Scotty can be contacted at hashhogg901@yahoo.com or by phone at 707- 425 -1909



Did You Know....?

By Clem Dougherty

Did you know...that there was a certain hardness to Junipero Serra? Yes it's true. In our last article we saw how the Franciscan Order (OFM) as founded by St. Francis split between the Conventuals and the Spirituals, that the Spirituals were the more strict part of the OFM, and that the Spirituals were the dominant branch of the OFM in Spain. It is into this tradition of the Spiritual Franciscans that Serra entered the Franciscan Order. As a result, it is not surprising that there was a certain hardness to Junipero Serra, a certain fierce determination, a certain single mindedness, a certain refusal to compromise that characterized his actions and that fully embodied the spirit of the early Spiritual Franciscans, all to further his goal of winning souls for Christ. Throughout his life Serra practiced extreme forms of self-discipline: beating his chest with a rock, burning his flesh with a candle, eating very little, and wearing hair shirts, all in the accepted manner of the times as practices of penance. Serra was the consummate missionary and longed to die as a martyr for the faith.

Serra was ordained a priest in 1737 and at first taught philosophy and theology in Palma on Majorca. While at Palma, Serra felt called to become a missionary in the New World. After receiving permission to leave his teaching positions, Serra in 1749, at the age of 36, sailed for the New World and landed in Vera Cruz on December 6, 1749.

Upon arriving in Vera Cruz, Serra chose not to ride the 250 miles to the Apostolic College of San Fernando in Mexico City but to walk instead. While walking approximately 15 miles a day, Serra was bitten on the leg by a mosquito, a variety of which was particularly aggressive and dangerous. The mosquito bite never healed, causing an ulcerous sore and causing Serra to limp for the rest of his life. On January 1, 1750, Serra arrived at the Apostolic College of San Fernando in Mexico City.

The Apostolic College of San Fernando was a Franciscan institution founded in 1734 for the purpose of training an elite band of missionaries for the New World. The 114 Franciscans at the College in 1750 led a rigorous monastic life in the custom of the Spiritual Franciscans designed to condition the friars for privation, fatigue, penance, and their own personal sanctification. There Serra learned Indian languages and methods of building, organizing and maintaining missions. The missionaries coming from the College of San Fernando were and are often referred to as “the Fernandinos.”

Serra first served as a missionary in the Sierra Gorda mountains of north eastern Mexico and then returned to the College of San Fernando where he remained from 1758 to 1768. In 1768 the Viceroy Felix de Croix then appointed Serra and his fellow Franciscans to replace the expelled Jesuits in the Baja missions.



Father Serra Raising the Cross in Santa Barbara¹

As we have stated earlier, it was the Russian threat to come south from Alaska that caused Jose de Galvez, the Visitador General, to organize the Spanish colonization of California. It was Galvez who chose Serra and his fellow Franciscans already in Baja to establish the missions in Alta California. The Vatican was not involved in the decision to send Serra and the OFM to California. Why not? Because the Vatican had earlier granted to Queen Isabella and the

subsequent Spanish Kings and Queens the Patronato, that is, the right to control the religious orders in the New World. So beginning in February of 1769 the Sacred Expedition with Portola in charge of the military contingent and Serra in charge of the religious contingent entered California and changed the course of California history forever. The story of the Sacred Expedition in California has been covered in a long past series of the *Clarion*.

(Sources: Rawls and Bean: California, An Interpretive History, 9th ed., pp.32-35; De Nevi & Moholy: Junipero Serra, The Illustrated Story of the Franciscan Founder of California's Missions, pp. 14-71; M.Vincent and R.A. Stradling: A Cultural Atlas Of Spain and Portugal, p.194; Edwin E. Sylvest: Motifs Of Franciscan Mission Theory In New Spain, pp.24-41; J.H. Parry: The Spanish Seaborne Empire, pp.158-159; J. H. Elliott: Imperial Spain 1469-1716, pp.101-103); H. Kamen: Empire: How Spain Became a World Power 1492-1763, pp144-145; R. Jackson and E. Castillo: Indians, Franciscans, and Spanish Colonization, p.108; James Sandos: Converting California, Indians and Franciscans In The Missions, pp.11,48, 71, 79, and 118,n.16).

¹ Mural image courtesy of California Missions Foundation

Volunteers Needed: PORTS Program

Rick Levin, the Parks Dept. **PORTS Program Coordinator**, has offered us the opportunity to participate with him in his televised school children programs in November. He has in mind just short cameo appearances, with him, to dialog about something in the Governor's Main office, or what we do as volunteers, or short information about one of the portraits in that room, or many other possible activities.

We don't have to be TV stars; our time in the program will be short. Rick thinks it would be great if whoever joins him could be dressed in period costume, but it's not absolutely necessary. It could be

a fun, new chance for us, as Capitol volunteers, to share our Building and our knowledge with young school children.

The dates are in November - most in the afternoon. **If you are interested, please call Rick at 916-322-6238 or you can email him at: richard.levin@parks.ca.gov**

1906 Election Day: October 18



In less than a week, **Saturday October 18**, CSCMVA Volunteers will re-enact 1906 candidate election politicking for the honor of serving as California Governor. This Living History event will be re-enacted within the halls of the California State Capitol. **Sam Bhakta** and **PJ Jones**, Co-Chairs, are working with **Connie Clark**, Director, and a dedicated group of living history volunteers to make the events surrounding the 1906 Election an interesting and stimulating day. Please encourage friends and neighbors to come to the Capitol on the 18th to relive the 1906 election and all of its political rhetoric.

Volunteer Spotlight

By Asleain "Scotty" Hodges

This Spotlight feature is a change in direction. It is the very First Spotlight that I wrote. It is being republished at the suggestion of the Editor who thought, and I agree, that many volunteers have missed learning about the personal history of some of our long time members.

I had the privilege of featuring this dear couple in the February 2007 edition of the *Clarion*. Since that time, Bill Geach has passed on to become our *Clarion* Editor Eternal, leaving big shoes to fill. Mary has remained active and faithfully continued on chairing Living History events including the 1906 Earthquake Day and Election Day, staffing the Book Table at each of our Living History events, regularly and actively participating in our Sewing and Hatmaking Workshops, and working with us to make those beautiful corsages for Camellia Days. In the past couple of years, Mary's health has slowed her down a bit, but she still manages, with the assistance of Sheri Routh, to work her magic purchasing books and raising funds for the Association at the Book Store!

Geach



Mary and Bill

"The first Spotlight illuminates the work of two very devoted and hardworking volunteers, Mary and Bill Geach who have a prolific background as volunteers and are both quite versed in California history. Mary taught United States history for forty years to 8th graders in the Grant School District. Bill has a background with the State of California, Union Pacific Railroad and in transportation with Blue Anchor, Inc., where he was Vice President.

"Like many of us who came to tour the Capitol and were mesmerized by its grandeur, Bill and Mary took a tour of the historic rooms shortly after restoration. During the tour Mary was captivated and knew she wanted to be a docent when she retired. So when she retired and volunteered to become a docent, she influenced Bill to join her, and the rest is history, as they say.

"The Geaches have donated many, many hours at the Capitol and earned countless awards. Mary has served as President twice, participated in numerous living history events, assisted in the

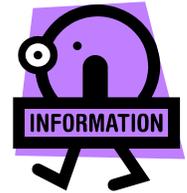
training of new docent classes, served as a mentor, helped to set up and run costume and hat making workshops (and that is work!), served as Membership Chairman and also acts as Coordinator of the Bookstore. Bill served as President twice, acted in many living history events – he was a memorable Governor Gage for Governors’ Day – done Historic Room interpretation, worked in the Bookstore, handled the budget and edits the newsletter. Each has earned awards too numerous to mention. In addition, in 2005, they were asked to serve as volunteers at the Stanford Mansion and perform there admirably as well.

“Mary and Bill are no doubt so successful, because they have a background that includes knowledge of California history, experience working well with people, travel widely to all parts of the world, and clearly find it rewarding meeting and interacting with the wide variety of public guests who visit the State Capitol.

“In addition to their multi-talents mentioned above, it is very interesting to know that Bill likes to grow Cymbidium and Phalaenopsis orchids and that Mary performed comedic ballet dancing in high school and college.”

Editor’s Note: *Mary and Bill have contributed so much to the quality and integrity of the CSCMVA experience and have won so many awards themselves from the organization, that they took it upon themselves several years ago to develop some new and unique awards (the “DOME” and the “SewMe” among others) and awarded them to many of the rest of us!*

North Entrance Door Information Booth: A New Opportunity



We’ve been given the opportunity to staff the North Entrance Door Information Booth. That’s the counter, and small booth, just inside the building on the left after visitors clear the security entrance.

During our Living History Events we have made a point to staff this location regularly to direct our visitors to the Rotunda. Now, we can do this during regular visitor hours.

Assembly Rules and DGS, have cleaned the booth, changed the lighting and added a new higher chair to allow people in the booth to be more visible behind the counter.

The sign up opportunity is already listed on the VicNet sign-in site, so consider joining others to give visitors a “first glance” entrance to their Capitol. Many will just want to be directed to Legislative Member offices in the annex, which means “point them down the hall, and left, to the elevators across from the Governor’s Office. “ Others will want to know “where is the Rotunda to meet my tour?” Same hall, but turn right at the intersection; or up the few stairs into the North Wing, then left to the Rotunda.

It is a challenging and new site for CSCMVA volunteers to be the first people to greet visitors. Let’s make it fun, and let’s ensure it is well-staffed.

Volunteer Hours – Volunteer Desk Sign-In Sheets: Two Different Systems

1. As of August 1, our **Volunteer hours of service** are now **recorded in the VicNet System**. A few of us do not have access to this computer system, and in order to help these individuals, we are continuing to arrange for a “buddy system” between those that don’t have access and a volunteer who does. In that way, the individual without computer access will

have their hours recorded by someone who does have access. Please let Alex or Rachel know if you are unable to access a computer or the VicNet system. A “buddy” will be arranged. Fortunately, most of us have transitioned well to the new system and enjoy the ease of it.

2. In a separate and very important system, it is necessary to identify on a daily basis our presence in the Capitol in case of an emergency. This is a safety requirement and does not serve as a means of recording our service hours. **Please be advised that the “sign-in” sheet at the Volunteer Desk no longer records our volunteer hours.** It only records who is in the Building for reference in the event of an emergency.

In Summary: Please, sign in each day you enter the Capitol building to record your presence in the building should an emergency arise. For your Volunteer Hours, please use the VicNet System or let us know that you need a “buddy” to record your hours.

Leadership Change:

By Alex King

It is always hard to adapt to change, and change on the CSCMVA Board may be even more unsettling. Unfortunately, we must respect the needs, and promptings, of our members.

It is truly a sorry message to report that **Randall Williams** has decided that family commitments must be attended, and he has asked to resign from the CSCMVA Board.

Randall has given yeoman efforts in creating our web site and our volunteer hours reporting system in **VicNet**. He has given CSCMVA countless hours of his experience, expertise and talent, and he will be sorely missed as an active member of our board.

We are, however, fortunate to have incredibly talented, and creative individuals within our organization. **P.J. Jones** has agreed to step up and fill Randall's vacancy on the Board. Those are some pretty big shoes to fill, but PJ has already given CSCMVA some big benefits as a very active volunteer; a regular-wearing 1900's period costume activist; and in her current role as Co-Chair of the 1906 Election Day Living History Event.

Let's give our thanks to Randall for his service, and support P.J. as our newest member of the CSCMVA Board of Directors.

CSCMVA Board Member Election

2015 brings with it three new vacancies on the Board of Directors. If you are interested in serving in this important leadership capacity, please let **Bob Dreyer**, Vice President, know.

Highlights of the Minutes of the CSCMVA Board Meeting

October 1, 2014

By Marilyn Thompson, Secretary

President's Report: Alex reported that **Randall Williams** has resigned from the Board in order to spend more time with his family. His resignation is effective immediately and was accepted with regret and many thanks for the significant contributions which he has made to the Association. He will be missed. David Keck moved, and Bob Dreyer seconded, to appoint PJ Jones to fill the remainder of Randall's term. The vote was unanimous in favor of PJ. PJ accepted and was seated on the board.

2014 Board of Directors

Alex King	President
Bob Dreyer	Vice President
Bob Dennis	Treasurer
Marylin Thompson	Secretary
Connie Clark	Member
David Keck	Member
Julie Mallett	Member
Christine Tyler	Member
P.J. Jones	Member

Appropriations Committee: Bob (Treasurer) reported that the monthly check from book sales had not been received yet so the report shows a temporary loss. He also noted that there have been several large expenses this month: Christmas decorations and refurbishment of the museum rooms.

Bookstore: Mary reported that net income for September was \$1,667.51. She has had word that the rights to *The Capitol that Wouldn't Stay Put* have been sold to Ingraham Publishing Co., and the book should be available soon. She displayed a sample of the Traveler's Passport book similar to the one which children can take to all state capitols to be stamped.

State Parks Report: Matt reported that Donna Pozzi sends her thanks to all CSCMVA volunteers who helped at the recent celebration at the Stanford Mansion. Matt offered his support for the proposed Christmas decorations in the museum rooms. He reported that the Governor's office drapes have been cleaned and new shades ordered. A question remains as to the fate of the drape between the Archives room and the SOS office. Matt displayed proofs of the PIE posters for discussion. The State Library has given the OK to sell them, but their foundation might want a portion of the proceeds from our Bookstore sales. State Parks will be willing to offer a trial run of a small number of posters for sale to see if they sell, and the cost to produce them still needs to be determined. The size will be 13" x 19". Donation to the State Library will be determined after costs / profits are worked out. Bob Dennis moved, and Chris Tyler seconded that we offer a donation rather than tracking individual sales. Motion passed.

Ongoing Business:

- **Volgistics:** Despite reports that some members are having trouble using the online scheduling system, it was the consensus of the Board that we continue to use the database and try to solve individual problems. The system works well for most people, and we do not want to go backwards. This will be an ongoing project which we will work to resolve.
- **Admission Day:** Everything went well; slightly over budget. Report being written.
- **Election Day:** Barbara Smith is putting an ad in the Bee; cost will be \$480. Rachel has 2 sizes of posters which can be taken and posted in neighborhoods. First rehearsal is tonight. Discussion of lunch options; not resolved.
- **Christmas Décor:** Jan Forbes displayed samples of tree decorations which have been purchased / made for 3 trees to be put in Governor's Main Office, Governor's Ante Room and Treasurer's office. She hopes this will be an ongoing annual project which can grow and which will give members another opportunity to participate and use their creativity. Three 7 foot trees have been purchased, with a discount, from William Glen and will be put up Thanksgiving weekend.
- **North Entrance Information Desk:** this has been put on the schedule and is now opened for volunteer signups to staff.
- **Training Class in 2015:** Brief discussion of timing and size of class. Maybe a small class in the spring. Rachel has already compiled approximately 15 applications.

New Business:

- **Noontime Christmas Music** programs begin on Monday, December 1st.

- **PORTS Programs:** Rich Levin welcomes volunteers, either in costume or not, to participate in his online after school programs for children in Santa Maria. These would be brief lessons from one of the museum rooms. Contact him if interested.
- **Training Events:** Capitol Furnishings Tour with Koren Benoit. [Editor's Note: subsequent to the Board meeting, Koren Benoit's tour scheduled for October 30 needed to be cancelled. It will be rescheduled for early 2015.]

All members are encouraged to attend the monthly **Board of Director's** meetings.
The next regularly scheduled meeting is **Wednesday, November 5 at 1:00 PM.**

PLEASE NOTE: The November issue of the *Capitol Clarion* will be delayed by approximately one week. The daughter of the Editor and Treasurer is being married in Phoenix in early November. Happiness!

Upcoming Events:

Election Day Rehearsal	Wednesday October 15
1906 Election Day	Saturday, October 18
Board of Director's Meeting	Wednesday, November 5 at 1 PM
Holiday Music Program	December 1 – 23
Annual Meeting	January 2015 – Date TBD

To Use the Capitol Museum website, below: Copy the address to your web browser and then save the website to your list of "Favorites" or "Bookmark" it.

<http://portal.parks.ca.gov/CapitalDistrict/CapitolMuseum/CapitolMuseumVolunteers>

Volunteer Coordinator: 324-0319
Rachel Martinez

Tour Guide Office: 324-0333

Scheduler's Desk: 324-2088

Capitol Tours daily 9 am – 4 pm, closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day